WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A cash processing system for processing currency bills and coins, the system comprising:

a compact housing;

a currency bill processing device disposed within the compact housing for determining the value of a batch of currency bills;

a coin processing device disposed within the compact housing for determining the value of a batch of coins; and

a central processing unit being disposed within the compact housing, the central processing unit being adapted to control the operation of the currency bill processing device and the coin processing device and to determine a total value of currency bills and coins processed.

2.   The cash processing system of claim 1 wherein the compact housing is adapted to be placed on a table top.

3.   The cash processing system of claim 1 wherein the compact housing has a width less than about 11 inches.

4.   The cash processing system of claim 1 wherein the compact housing has a depth less than about 21 inches.

5.   The cash processing system of claim 1 wherein the compact housing has a height less than about 19 inches.

6.   The cash processing system of claim 1 wherein the compact housing occupies a footprint of less than about 230 square inches.

7.   The cash processing system of claim 1 wherein the compact housing occupies a volume of less than about 4400 cubic inches.

8.   The cash processing system of claim 1 wherein the currency bill processing device comprises:

an input receptacle adapted to receive a stack of currency bills to be processed;

an output receptacle adapted to received processed currency bills;

a transport mechanism adapted to transport currency bills, one at a time, from the input receptacle along a transport path to the output receptacle; and

an evaluation region disposed along the transport path adapted to determine information concerning each of the currency bills including a total amount of currency bills processed, the evaluation region being communicatively coupled to the central processing unit.

9. The cash processing system of claim 1 wherein the currency bill processing device is adapted to process bills at a rate greater than about 800 bills per minute.

10. The cash processing system of claim 1 further comprising an operator interface.

11. The cash processing system of claim 1 wherein the operator interface comprises a touch screen.

12. The cash processing system of claim 1 wherein the coin processing device comprises:

an input hopper for receiving coins of a plurality of denominations to be sorted;

a rotatable disk for imparting motion to the plurality of coins;

a stationary head having a lower surface generally parallel to and spaced slightly away from the rotatable disk, the lower surface having a plurality of shaped regions for controlling the movement of the coins and guiding coin to a plurality of exit channels for discharging coins, the plurality of coin exit channels corresponding to a plurality of coin denominations to be processed; and

a plurality of coin counting sensors for counting coins, one of the plurality of coin counting sensors being disposed at each of the plurality of exit channels.

13. The cash processing system of claim 12 wherein the plurality of coin counting sensors are communicatively coupled to the central processing unit.

14. The cash processing system of claim 13 wherein the coin processing device includes a discrimination sensor for discriminating between valid and invalid coins.

15. The cash processing system of claim 14 wherein the discrimination sensor is communicatively coupled to the central processing unit.

16. The cash processing system of claim 1 further comprising a printer for printing information regarding the processing of currency bills and coins.

17. A method of processing a batch of currency bills and coins with a compact cash processing device, the compact currency processing device being disposed within a compact housing adapted to be placed on a tabletop, the method comprising:

receiving a batch of currency bills and coins from an operator of the compact cash processing device;

determining the value of the received currency bills with a currency bill processing device disposed within the compact housing; and

determining the value of the received coins with a coin processing device disposed within the compact housing.

18. The method of claim 17 further comprising sorting the received coins with the coin processing device.

19. The method of claim 17 wherein the compact housing has a width less than about 11 inches.

20. The method of claim 17 wherein the compact housing has a depth less than about 21 inches.

21. The method of claim 17 wherein the compact housing has a height less than about 19 inches.

22. The method of claim 17 wherein the compact housing occupies a footprint of less than about 230 square inches.

23.   The method of claim 17 wherein the compact housing occupies a volume of less than about 4400 cubic inches.

24.   The method of claim 17 wherein determining the value of the received currency bills with a currency bill processing device comprises:

receiving the currency bills to be processed in an input receptacle of the currency bill processing device;

transporting currency bills, one at a time, from the input receptacle past an evaluation unit to an output receptacle;

determining information concerning each currency bill including the denomination of each currency bill with the evaluation unit.

25.   The method of claim 17 wherein determining the value of the received currency bills with a currency bill processing device comprises determining the value of the received currency bills at a rate greater than about 800 bills per minute.

26.   The method of claim 17 wherein determining the value of the received coins includes discriminating between valid and invalid coins.

27.   The method of claim 17 further comprising printing information regarding the currency bills and coins processed by the compact currency processing device.